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52

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/740,064	12/20/2000	Hiroshi Yoshida	KAW-238-USAP	1137

7590

04/06/2004

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EXAMINER

HOTALING, JOHN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3713

18

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/740,064

Applicant(s)

YOSHIDA ET AL.

Examiner

John M Hotaling II

Art Unit

3713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stockdale et al US Patent 6,251,014 in view of Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary Third Edition page 451 definition for structured programming. Stockdale discloses all of the instant application with the exception of specifically stating the use of a hierarchical processing structure and mid level instructions. Instead Stockdale discloses all of the inputs and outputs of a gaming machine may be controlled by a master gaming controller which sends out high level instructions to a peripheral controller which can use the high level instructions to send low level instruction precisely controlling the operation of its drive mechanism or pas the high level instructions to a second slot reel peripheral. Stockdale provides a method for controlling operation of a slot reel peripheral containing a single slot reel on a gaming machine. The method may include the steps of (1) receiving a high level instruction for controlling the slot reel peripheral from a first master gaming controller via a standard peripheral connection to a peripheral controller associated with the slot reel peripheral where the high level instruction does not precisely specify how the slot reel peripheral must perform an operation associated with the high level instruction, (2) converting the high level

instruction to one or more low level operating instructions, at the peripheral controller, for controlling the operation of one or more peripheral devices provided with the slot reel peripheral and (3) controlling operation of the one or more peripheral devices with the low level operating instructions. In the a preferred embodiment, the method may also include the steps of (a) storing state history information in the slot reel peripheral specifying a recent operating state of the slot reel peripheral and (b) transmitting the stored state history information to the first master gaming controller. In another embodiment the slot reel peripheral may receive a high level instruction for controlling the slot reel peripheral from a second slot reel peripheral via a standard peripheral connection or from a second master gaming controller different from the first master gaming controller. The slot reel peripheral may contain a number of peripheral devices including an effects light 404, a back light 406, a bar code detector 408, position sensors 410, tampering sensors 412, an electro-luminescence device 414, a sound device 416, a stepper motor 418, and a slot reel 420. Stockdale teaches the transformation of a high level signal by an intermediate device into a low level signal for use by a low level device. The Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary (MPCD) Third Edition page 451 definition for structured programming states that; Programming that produces programs with clean flow, clear design, and a degree of modularity or hierarchical structure. One of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the processing of high level signals into low level signals is structured or "Hierarchical" programming as taught above. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

art at the time of the invention use hierarchical processing including mid level instructions as disclosed in Stockdale and specifically taught in the MPCD.

***Citation of Pertinent Prior Art***

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Wells et al '585, Mastera et al '666 both disclose processing schemes for a game machine.

***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John M Hotaling II whose telephone number is 703 305 0780. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teresa Walberg can be reached on (703) 308-1327. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JOHN M. HOTALING, II  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

4/1/2004  
